

FATALITIES IN WAR FROM DEWITT COUNTY ILLIONIS WORLD WAR ONE TO PRESENT May 27, 2016

MEMORIAL DAY IS FOR REMEMBERING THE PEOPLE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES. THE HOLIDAY, WHICH IS OBSERVED EVERY YEAR ON THE LAST MONDAY OF MAY WAS ORIGINATED AS DECORATION DAY AFTER THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR IN 1868, WHEN THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, AN ORGANIZATION OF UNION VETERANS FOUNDED IN DECATUR, ILLINOIS, ESTABLISHED IT AS A TIME FOR THE NATION TO DECORATE THE GRAVES OF THE WAR DEAD WITH FLOWERS.

RANK/RATE	NAME	TYPE	LOCATION	UNIT	NOTES	CITY	BURIAL
SPECIALIST FOUR CLASS	KENT DOUGLAS MATTHEWS	KIA /ARMY/JUNE 18, 1970	LONG AN SOUTH VIETNAM	A COMPANY, 6TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, 9 INFANTRY DIV	HOSTILE, DIED OUTRIGHT REASON: GUN OR SMALL ARMS FIRE - GROUND CASUALTY	CLINTON	MAUSOLEUM PARK CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL PARK CEMETARY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	TOMMY GENE ELLIOTT	DOW/ARMY/AUGUST 23, 1969	BINH DUONG PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM	C COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION	HOSTILE, DIED OF WOUNDS CASUALTY REASON: GROUND CASUALTY CASUALTY DETAIL: ARTILLERY, ROCKET, OR MORTAR KIA BY MORTAR FIRE DURING AN NVA GROUND ATTACK. WE WERE AT NDP MONS DX PERFORMING SECURITY FOR LAND CLEARING ENGINEERS THE TRAPEZOID AND 2K NORTH OF AP SO BAU NO	CLINTON	GRACELAND CEMETERY DECATUR MACON COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	GARY EDWARD REYNOLDS	KIA/ARMY/FEBRUARY 11, 1969	BINH DUONG PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM	A COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 505TH INFANTRY, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION	DIED OUTRIGHT GROUND CASUALTY MISADVENTURE (FRIENDLY FIRE)	CLINTON	MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	STEPHEN CARL HENDERSON	KIA/ARMY/SEPTEMBER 14, 1969	QUANG NGAI PROVINCE SOUTH VIETNAM	198TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 1ST BATTALION, 52ND INFANTRY, A COMPANY	DIED THROUGH HOSTILE ACTION .. SMALL ARMS FIRE	KENNY	
LANCE CORPORAL	FRED GILLESPIE O'MALLEY	KIA/MARINES/JUNE 6, 1967	VINH HUY VILLAGE COMPLEX NUI LOC SON BASIN, SOUTH VIETNAM	1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, D COMPANY	DIED THROUGH HOSTILE ACTION .. SMALL ARMS FIRE	FARMER CITY	
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	ROBERT M. JOHNSON	MIA-KIA/ARMY/FEBRUARY 15, 1951	SOUTH KOREA	1ST DIVISION- 2ND ELEMENT		KENNY	PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY KENNEY DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
SARGENT	DONALD R BECKER	MIA/ARMY/NOVEMBER 28, 1950	SOUTH KOREA	COMPANY H, 2ND BATTALION, 6TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION		DEWITT COUNTY	COURTS OF THE MISSING COURT 4 HONOLULU MEMORIAL
TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE	ROBERT DAY SMITH	FOD/ARMY/ JUNE 2, 1940	VIENNA, AUSTRIA	HEAD QUARTERS COMPANY, 222 INFANTRY, 42 INFANTRY DIVISION	FINDING OF DEATH, IN THE ABSENCE OF A RECOVERED BODY, SOLDIERB THAT WERE DETERMINED TO BE DEAD UNDER PUBLIC LAW 490. MADE IN CASES, AFTER AT LEAST ONE YEAR FROM TIME OF DISAPPEARANCE, WHEN THERE WAS EITHER CONCLUSIVE PROOF THAT THE PERSON IS DEAD OR EQUALLY OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON COULD NOT HAVE REMAINED ALIVE. NON STOP FROM SIEGFRIED, GERMANY ON MARCH 21ST TO FURTH ON APRIL 19TH TO THE CONCENTRATION CAMP OF DACHAU ON APRIL 28TH TO SALZBURG, AUSTRIA ON MAY 7TH, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE MIAs WERE NOT LISTED UNTILL EARLY JUNE, 1945.	CLINTON	MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
SARGENT	MARVIN O WALTERS	MIA/ARMY/DECEMBER 12, 1950	NORTH KOREA	COMPANY L, 3RD BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION		DEWITT COUNTY	COURTS OF THE MISSING COURT 8 HONOLULU MEMORIAL
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	LOUIS RAYMOND GRAHAM	MIA/MARINES/MARCH 23, 1945	IWO JIMA, PART OF THE JAPANESE VOLCANO ISLANDS AND ALSO KNOW AS THE BONIN ISLANDS		U.S. MARINES INVADDED IWO JIMA ON FEBRUARY 19, 1945. THE ISLAND OF IWO JIMA WAS DECLARED CONQUERED BY ADMIRAL CHESTER NIMITZ ON 14 MAR 1945. HOWEVER, HE MADE THE DECLARATION TOO EARLY, FOR THAT FIGHTING HAD BY NO MEANS CEASED ON THE ISLAND. ON MARCH 22, THE JAPANESE GENERAL KURIBAYASHI REPORTED THAT "THE STRENGTH UNDER MY COMMAND IS NOW ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED. TANKS ARE ATTACKING US. THE ENEMY SUGGESTED WE SURRENDER THROUGH A LOUDSPEAKER, BUT OUR OFFICERS AND MEN JUST LAUGHED AND PAID NO ATTENTION." THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALLY DECLARED THE ISLAND SECURE ON MARCH 26, 1945. THE ALLIED FORCES SUFFERED 25,000 CASUALTIES, WITH NEARLY 7,000 DEAD. FATHER, MR. CLARENCE GRAHAM, 610 SO. CLINTON ST., CLINTON.	CLINTON	COURTS OF THE MISSING COURT 2 HONOLULU MEMORIAL

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	JAMES CALVIN HITER	KIA/MARINES/JUNE 15, 1944	SAIPAN BEACH NEAR THE VILLAGE OF CHALAN KANOA NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	SECOND BATTALION, EIGHTH MARINES, SECOND MARINE DIVISION	AROUND 8 A.M., ON JUNE 15, 1944, THE INVASION OF SAIPAN BEGAN. THE MAIN ATTACK OF THE MARINE DIVISIONS WAS CENTERED NEAR THE SOUTHWESTERN SAIPAN BEACH VILLAGE OF CHALAN KANOA. THE LANDING AREA WAS TARGETED BY THE JAPANESE 105MM (18), 75MM (30), AND 150MM (8) GUNS ON THE HIGH GROUND OVERLOOKING THE BEACHES. THEIR ARTILLERY WAS EXTREMELY ACCURATE DUE TO THE PRECISE SIGHTING IN OF THE GUNS AND THE USE OF BAMBOO STICKS TO HELP IN ADJUSTING FIRE. ON THIS FIRST DAY THERE WERE TWO THOUSAND MARINES CASUALTIES, AND 20,000 WERE ASHORE BY NIGHTFALL. SAIPAN WAS OFFICIALLY SECURED ON JULY 7, 1944 WITH THE SUICIDES OF THE JAPANESE COMMANDERS HIRAKUSHI AND IGETA. ALSO COMMITTING SUICIDE AT THE END OF THE BATTLE WAS VICE-ADMIRAL CHUICHI NAGUMO WHO HAD LED THE JAPANESE CARRIERS AT PEARL HARBOR AND MIDWAY. THERE WERE OVER 30,000 JAPANESE DEATHS. THIS THE VICTORY WAS THE MOST COSTLY TO DATE IN THE PACIFIC WAR. 2,949 AMERICANS WERE KILLED AND 10,464 WOUNDED, OUT OF 71,000 WHO LANDED.	CLINTON	COURTS OF THE MISSING COURT 2 HONOLULU MEMORIAL
PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS / SIGNALMAN	VINCENT SCHMAHL JOSS	MIA/NAVY/JULY 24, 1945	ABOUT 250 MILES OFF THE NORTHEAST COAST OF CAPE ENGAÑO ON PAOAI ISLAND, PHILIPPINES	USS UNDERHILL, DE682	A TOTAL OF 112 CREW MEMBERS OF UNDERHILL PERISHED IN THE EXPLOSION OF TWO SUICIDE MANNED JAPANESE TORPEDOES, WHILE 122 SURVIVED. WIFE, MRS. EVELYN MAY JOSS, 213½ E. MAIN ST., CLINTON	CLINTON	TABULETS OF THE MISSING MANILA AMERICAN CEMETERY
FIRST LIEUTENANT	WILLIAM HUGH SWISHER	KIA/MARINES/NOVEMBER 3, 1942	GUADALCANAL, SOLOMON ISLAND	5TH MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINE REGIMENT	THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TAKES PRIDE IN PRESENTING THE NAVY CROSS (POSTHUMOUSLY) FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WHILE SERVING AS ARTILLERY FORWARD OBSERVER WITH DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY, AND IN THE FACE OF ALMOST CONSTANT FIRE FROM ENEMY ARTILLERY, MACHINE GUNS AND SNIPERS, FIRST LIEUTENANT SWISHER, WITH ANOTHER OFFICER, MAINTAINED CONTINUOUS OBSERVATION AND COMMUNICATION. EVEN AT SUCH TIMES WHEN MAINTENANCE SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE, HE RESOLUTELY CONTINUED TO CALL FOR AND OBSERVE SUPPORTING ARTILLERY FIRES FOR HIS OWN AND ADJACENT UNITS WHENEVER NEEDED. HIS SKILL, FORTITUDE AND FEARLESS DEVOTION TO DUTY WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE. BOARD SERIAL: 302 (MARCH 5, 1943) BORN: AT OANVILLE, ILLINOIS HOME TOWN: DANVILLE, ILLINOIS WIFE, MRS. WILLIAM H. SWISHER (ELEANOR ANN), 117 E. WEBSTER ST., CLINTON	CLINTON	SPRING HILL CEMETERY AND MAUSOLEUM, DANVILLE, VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
SARGENT	ORAN L ANDERSON	MIA/ARMY-AIR/NOVEMBER 17, 1944		741ST BOMBER SQUADRON, 455TH BOMBER GROUP			
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	RICHARD W. EVEY	DOW/ARMY/JANUARY 19, 1945	ROHRWILLER - DRUSENHEIM GERMANY	3RD BATTALION, 314TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION	IN ONE OF THE WAR'S MANY UNFORTUNATE MOMENTS, ON JANUARY 19, 1945, THE GERMANS CAPTURED THE SECOND BATTALION OF THE 314TH INFANTRY REGIMENT	ARGENTA, MACON COUNTY	EPINAL AMERICAN CEMETERY LORRAINE, FRANCE
FIRST LIEUTENANT	ROBERT A BEAN	DNB/ARMY/APRIL 2, 1945	OKINAWA ISLAND LARGEST ISLAND OF THE RYUKYU ISLANDS OF JAPAN	348TH INFANTRY 96TH DIVISION		FARMER CITY	MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY FARMER CITY DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE	FLOYD L CLAVIER	DNB/ARMY/ JUNE 22, 1943	CAMP EL ALEN NEAR KAIROUAN (TUNISIA)	1 ST BATTALION, 325 GLIDER INFANTRY, 82ND AIRBORN		CLINTON	CLINTON
PRIVATE	FLOYD COX	KIA/ARMY/DECEMBER 25, 1944	ARDENNES LUXEMBOURG	735TH TANK BATTALION		CLINTON	LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN CEMETERY MARKER MEMORIAL WAPELLA, IL
TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE	CHARLES R GREGORY	DNB/ARMY-AIR/ MAY 10, 1945		TRANSPORTATION CORPS		CLINTON	WALTERS CEMETERY SOLOMON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
LIEUTENANT CORONEL	GORDON E HALL	DNB/ARMY-AIR/1943		A GRADUATE OF WAPELLA HIGH SCHOOL HE WAS SENT TO NORTH AFRICA IN JULY 1943, AFTER FLIGHT SCHOOL TRAINING. HE WOULD FLY MISSIONS OVER EGYPT NORTH AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN. ONE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT NOTED "SKILL...IN DIRECTING THE OPERATIONS OF HIS SQUADRON AND FOR VOLUNTEERING TO PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICALLY EVERY HAZARDOUS MISSION." IN JUST A FEW MONTHS OF COMBAT HE WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR (THIRD-HIGHEST MILITARY DECORATION) AND WOULD BE PROMOTED TO LT. COL. IN LATE 1943 HE WAS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT NOT INVOLVING COMBAT.		WAPELLA	MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS

PRIVATE	MERLE J HITER	DOW/ARMY/ AUGUST 20, 1944	SOUTHERN FRANCE NEAR BORDEAUX	180TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION	MR. AND MRS. MERLE HITER OF NEAR CLINTON RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM THE WAR DEPARTMENT WEDNESDAY ADVISING THEM OF THE DEATH OF THEIR SON, PVT. MERLE J. HITER, WHO DIED AUG. 20 IN FRANCE AS A RESULT OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION. THEY HAD RECEIVED A TELEGRAM A FEW DAYS EARLIER STATING THAT PVT. HITER HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY WOUNDED AUG. 15. THIS IS THE SECOND SON OF THE HITERS TO LOSE HIS LIFE IN WORLD WAR II, JAMES C. HITER, HAVING BEEN KILLED AT SAIPAN. PVT. HITER ENTERED SERVICE IN NOVEMBER, 1943, AND WENT OVERSEAS IN APRIL, THIS YEAR. HE IS SURVIVED BY HER PARENTS, AND A 10 YEAR OLD BROTHER, AND HIS WIFE, THE FORMER JEANNE FERRICKS OF KENNEY.	CLINTON	MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE	RAYMOND L. HOTT	MIA/ARMY-AIR/NOVEMBER 27, 1943	OFFSHORE OF ORAN, ALGERIA ON THE HMT ROHNA	853RD ENGINEER BATTALION	THE HMT ROHNA THAT WAS STRUCK AMIDSHIPS ON THE PORT SIDE AT ABOUT THE WATER LINE BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE A RADIO-CONTROLLED MISSILE. OF THE 793 OF THE 853RD WHO BOARDED THE HMS ROHNA, ONLY 129 SURVIVED	DEWITT	AVIATION TABLETS OF THE MISSING NORTH AFRICA AMERICAN CEMETERY TUNIS TUNISIA
CORPORAL	HAROLD D HUFFMAN	DNB ARMY-AIR/SEPTEMBER 24, 1944	CASPER, NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING		RADIO OPERATOR ON A B24J THAT CRASHED IN NON COMBAT ACCIDENT	FARMER CITY	MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY, FARMER CITY, DEWITT COUNTY, ILLINOIS
STAFF SARGENT	CASPER, NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING	MIA/ARMY-AIR/MARCH 29, 1944	TRUCK ISLAND IN THE CAROLINE ISLANDS	424TH BOMBER SQUADRON	B-24S CARRY OUT THE FIRST DAYLIGHT RAID ON TRUK ATOLL, BOMBING THE AIRFIELD ON ETEN ISLAND; THE MISSION IS STAGED FROM MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA ISLAND THROUGH TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND FOR ARMING AND NISSAN ISLAND, SOLOMON ISLANDS FOR REFUELING BEFORE THE STRIKE; THE UNESCORTED B-24S CLAIM 31 INTERCEPTORS DESTROYED, ALONG WITH ALMOST 50 AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND; 2 B-24S ARE LOST.	DEWITT	MANILA AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL MANILA, PHILIPPINES
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY, FA	KIA/ARMY/FEBRUARY 9, 1945	LUXEMBURG	282ND ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION		DEWITT	LORRAINE AMERICAN CEMETERY ST AVOLD FRANCE
SECOND LIEUTENANT	ILLINOIS, USA	KIA/ARMY-AIR/APRIL 15, 1944	RUMAIA	340TH BOMBER SQUADRON, 87TH BOMBER GROUP		FARMER CITY	ARDENNES AMERICAN CEMETERY NEUPRE BELGIUM
PRIVATE	WILLIAM D MEWHINNEY	DNB/ARMY/NOVEMBER 17, 1942	MINERAL WELLS PALO PINTO COUNTY TEXAS	65 INFANTRY TRAINING BATTALION,		WAPELLA	CRUM CEMETERY WAPELLA DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	GEORGE W NEWBERRY	DNB/ARMY/JUNE 12, 1944	STE. COME-DU-MONT FRANCE	401 GLIDER INFANTRY REGIMENT 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION		CLINTON	WOODLAWN CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	LOWELL E PACELEY	DOW/ARMY/ MAY 1, 1945	GARIGLIANO RIVER OUTSIDE OF MINTURNO IN THE SOUTHERN LAZIO, ITALY	313TH MEDICAL BATTALION, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION		KENNY	FLORENCE AMERICAN CEMETERY IMPRUNETA ITALY
SECOND LIEUTENANT	JAMES MARION POLEN	MIA-KIA/ARMY-AIR/JANUARY 14, 1945	NEAR MANNHEIM, GERMANY.	368 FIGHTER SQUADRON 9TH AIR FORCE	JANUARY 14, 1944 WAS A DARK DAY FOR 397TH FS AND 368TH FG, 6 PILOTS REPORTED MIA THIS DAY WHEN 12 PLANES WERE BOUNCED BY 80 ENEMY FIGHTERS. SECOND LIEUTENANT POLEN WAS SHOT DOWN BY FW-190 NEAR MANNHEIM, GERMANY.	CLINTON	WOODLAWN CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	THOMAS E RYAN	DNB/ARMY/JUNE 24, 1944				WAPELLA	SAINT PATRICK CEMETERY WAPELLA DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
SARGENT	SAMUEL T STEWART	MIA/ARMY/JULY 19, 1945			BORN IN MISSISSIPPI, ENTERED SERVICE IN PEORIA, IL SHOWS DEWITT COUNTY RESIDENCE BORN 1909 AND MARRIED	DEWITT COUNTY	MANILA AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL MANILA, PHILIPPINES
PRIVATE	CHESTER D WALDRON	KIA/ARMY/JULY 8, 1944	CARENTAN, FRANCE	22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION	ON JULY 7, HAVING BEEN MOVED TO AN ASSEMBLY AREA SOUTH AND WEST OF CARENTAN, THE 22ND INFANTRY ATTACKED, THEREBY BEGINNING ONE OF ITS BLOODIEST ENGAGEMENTS OF THE ENTIRE WAR--THE CARENTAN-PERIERIS OPERATION (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE BATTLE OF THE HEDGEROWS").	CLINTON	NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER FRANCE
PRIVATE	FRANK H. GUTHRIE					CLINTON	
PRIVATE	RUSSELL L. HOFFMAN	DBD/ARMY/OCTOBER 8, 1918		COMPANY B 128TH INFANTRY		CLINTON	
PRIVATE	ROGER L. ELY	DOW/ARMY/OCTOBER 15, 1918,		COMPANY E, 108 SUPPLY TRAIN		CLINTON	WOODLAWN CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE	JAMES W. CARTMILL	DOW/ARMY				CLINTON	
CORPORAL	IRWIN E. SILVY	KIA/ARMY		28TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST DIVISION		CLINTON	AIN-NE-MARNE AMERICAN CEMETERY
PRIVATE	JOHN GAREL MCCORD	DBD/ARMY/OCTOBER 8, 1918,		COMPANY A, 114TH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS		FARMER CITY	WOODLAWN CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE	ELMER EPPSTEINE	DOW/ARMY				FARMER CITY	
PRIVATE	JOE L. WILLIAMS	DOW/ARMY				FARMER CITY	
PRIVATE	JUDSON S WEEDMAN	DBD/ARMY/OCTOBER 10, 1918	ONBOARD RMS CARONIA THAT WAS A BRITISH OCEAN LINER, LAUNCHED ON 13 JULY 1904	COMPANY K, 121ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, 31ST DIVISION		FARMER CITY	SURESNES AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL SURESNES DEPARTEMENT DES HAUTS-DE-SEINE ILE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE

PRIVATE	FRANK M. JORDAN	DBA/ARMY				WAPELLA	
CORPORAL	HENRY T. GALE	KIA/ARMY/JUNE 22, 1918		BATTERY A, 15TH FIELD ARTILLERY		WELDON	
PRIVATE	CHARLES E. LARSON	DBD/ARMY/JULY 20, 1918		16TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION		DELAND	OISE-AISNE AMERICAN CEMETERY, FRANCE
FIRST SARGENT	WELBY N. CRANG	DBD/ARMY/JULY 8, 1917	AERODROME IN THE VICINITY OF ISSOUDUN, CENTRE, FRANCE.	463 AERO SQUADRON WAS FORMED AS 51ST AERO SQUADRON, REFORMED ON OCTOBER 30, 1917 AND DECOMMISSIONED IN JULY 1919. THIS WAS A CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON AT THE 3D AVIATION INSTRUCTION CENTER OF THE ISSOUDUN AERODROME. THIS AERODROME WAS A COMPLEX OF MILITARY AIRFIELDS IN THE VICINITY OF ISSOUDUN, CENTRE, FRANCE.	BORN JANUARY 23, 1892 DEWITT ILLINOIS. SUCCUMBED TO PNEUMONIA SAYS MESSAGE TO PARENTS. CLINTON, JAN. 1. A MEMBER OF AN AERO SQUADRON FROM A CAMP IN COLORADO, AND WHO RECENTLY ARRIVED IN FRANCE FOR SERVICE, IS DEAD, ACCORDING TO A MESSAGE RECEIVED BY HIS PARENTS. MR. AND MRS. CHARLES CRANG. RESIDING SOUTHEAST OF CLINTON, LATE TUESDAY AFTERNOON. THE MESSAGE GAVE NO DETAILS ONLY THAT YOUNG CRANG DEATH WAS DUE TO PNEUMONIA. WELBY IS THE ONLY SON OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES CRANG. HE ALWAYS MADE HIS HOME IN CLINTON UNTIL ABOUT THREE YEARS "AGO". WHEN HE WENT TO CHICAGO. HE LATER WENT WEST AND AT THE TIME OF HIS ENLISTMENT HE WAS IN COLORADO TRAVELING FOR A SHOE COMPANY. HE ATTENDED THE CLINTON GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOLS. AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL HE ENTERED THE SHOE STORE OF WAMPLER & CLOUD, WHERE HE WORKED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND WHERE HE WAS A MOST VALUABLE EMPLOYEE. HE LEAVES HIS PARENTS AND ONE SISTER MISS MINNIE CRANG. AT HOME. NO ARRANGEMENTS WERE IN PROGRESS LAST WRIGHTS AS TO WHERE HE WOULD BE BURIED. THE HOMETOWN SHOWS AS CLINTON, OKLAHOMA IN SOLDIERS OF THE GREAT WAR	CLINTON	WOODLAWN CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
PRIVATE	ARTIE BENNETT	MIA-KIA/MARINES/JULY 8, 1918	AISNE-MARNE SECTOR, 75 MILES NORTHEAST OF PARIS	82ND COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 8TH MARINE REGIMENT. DEPLOYED DURING OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1917 TO FRANCE AND ASSIGNED TO THE 4TH BRIGADE, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. PRIVATE BENNETT DIED IN THE BATTLE OF CHATEAU-THIERY MARABACHE LIMY. THIS BATTLE WAS 72 DAYS OF COMBAT OF VARIED INTENSITY (FROM MAY 27 TO AUGUST 6, 1918	BASED ON THE DATE OF DEATH, PRIVATE BENNETT WAS LIKELY MIA/KIA IN THE AISNE DEFENSIVE -- ON THE CHEMIN DES DAMES AND NORTHEAST OF REIMS, BETWEEN MAY 27 AND JUNE 5." THIS WAS THE FIRST PHASE OF THE GERMAN DRIVE TOWARDS PARIS, WHICH ON JUNE 1 REACHED THE RIVER MAME NEAR CHATEAU-THIERRY. REGIMENTAL LOSSES IN THIS SECTOR WERE 2,143 OVER 40 DAYS. IN RECOGNITION OF THE "BRILLIANT COURAGE, VIGOR, SPIRIT, AND TENACITY OF THE MARINES", THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AWARDED MARINE UNITS AT BELLEAU WOOD THE CROIX DE GUERRE WITH PALM AND RENAMED BELLEAU WOOD "BOIS DE LA BRIGADE DE MARINE. A SIMPLE MEMORIAL SERMON WAS PREACHED BY REV. R. L. CARTWRIGHT SUNDAY EVENING AT THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH. THE SERVICE WAS IN HONOR OF PRIVATE ARTIE BENNETT, WHO WAS KILLED IN FRANCE JUNE 8, AND HIS STAR IN THE SERVICE FLAG WAS REPLACED BY A GOLD ONE.	CLINTON	WOODLAWN CEMETERY CLINTON DEWITT COUNTY ILLINOIS
		MIA...MISSING IN ACTION DBD...DIED BY DISEASE DOW...DIED OF WOUNDS DNB...DIED NON BATTLE KIA...KILLED IN ACTION DBA...DIED BY ACCIDENT FOD...FINDING OF DEATH					
CORRECTION OF OMISSIONS AND ERRORS: RONALD L. JONES 702 SOUTH GRANT STREET CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727 RLJPE@YAHOO.COM CELL: 2176201161 (VOICE OR TEXT)			AMVETS POST 14 Jessie Owens, Commander Marc Rogers, Membership Director 302 North Monroe Street Clinton, IL 61727 217-413-7980 & 217-791-3284 E-mail: amvets14@gmail.com website: www.amvets.org Post 14 Meets 2nd Monday of month @ 7pm	AMERICAN LEGION Crang-Bennett Post 103 Commander: Thomas P Redington Adjutant: Larry P Cohenour 219 North Elizabeth Street Clinton, Illinois 61727 217-935-5183 website: www.legion.org Post 103 Meets 3rd Thursday of month @ 7pm	VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Hall-Evey Post 4166 Quartermaster: David Levesque Commander: Bryon Hudson 1020 State Route 10 W Clinton, IL 617275000 217-935-4032 website: www.vfw.org Post 4166 Meets 4th Tuesday of month @ 8pm		